

To the Michigan Supreme Court,

I would like to respond to the survey on whether prosecutors should include previous acts of violence in domestic violence cases. I would also like to make a few suggestions.

I would agree to allow previous acts of violence in court case because this would show the nature of the characters behavior pattern and the lack of either party to seek counseling. Experiencing domestic violence myself I been through the humiliation, embarrassment, and the fear of the unknown. I have also found that there is not a consistency or uniform agreement or understanding of the procedures or laws among the those involved dealing with domestic violence. This includes the police, intake and processors workers in the courts, domestic violence centers, the Family Independence Agency, and homeless shelters.

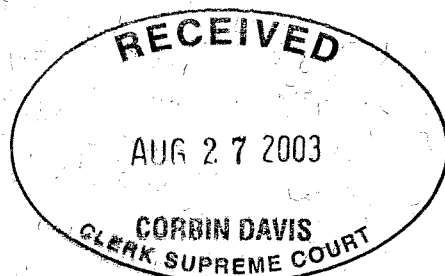
I have talked with many concerning domestic violence, including state representatives suggesting that the Friend of the Court be the friend of everyone. This would, perhaps results in less divorces, happier children, less violence, and child abductions. The reply I usually get is the government can't interfere with peoples personal lives. Yet the government steps right in when divorce or domestic violence occurs. When the chaos is divided among families it becomes multiplied over many times. I have suggested that domestic violence be divided into two or more categories. Category one a judge would sign a PPO when there is physical evidence or recommendation from the police. doctors etc. Other wise a PPO would go before a third party which would interview ALL parties involved which would make a recommendation to the judge such as mandatory counseling. this ~~would~~ would put less cases before the court and save taxpayers money. The courts and all police stations should have a packet with all the information and forms that need to be filled out for a PPO, thus saving the victim time. ALL public pay phones should accept 800 numbers. It is very frustrating trying to reach a shelter or domestic violence center when only certain phones accept 800 numbers.

Perhaps never married couples should be required to take pre marriage classes.

I would like to see material dealing with domestic violence to be neutral on the gender of the victim because men can also be victims yet are already labeled as the aggressor and guilty and must prove themselves innocent.

I would like to see an independent study on domestic violence and divorce. There are answers to the problems but society doesn't want to listen.

In closing I would very much like to see an end to domestic violence. NO ONE deserves to be beaten or killed - life is too short and precious.



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